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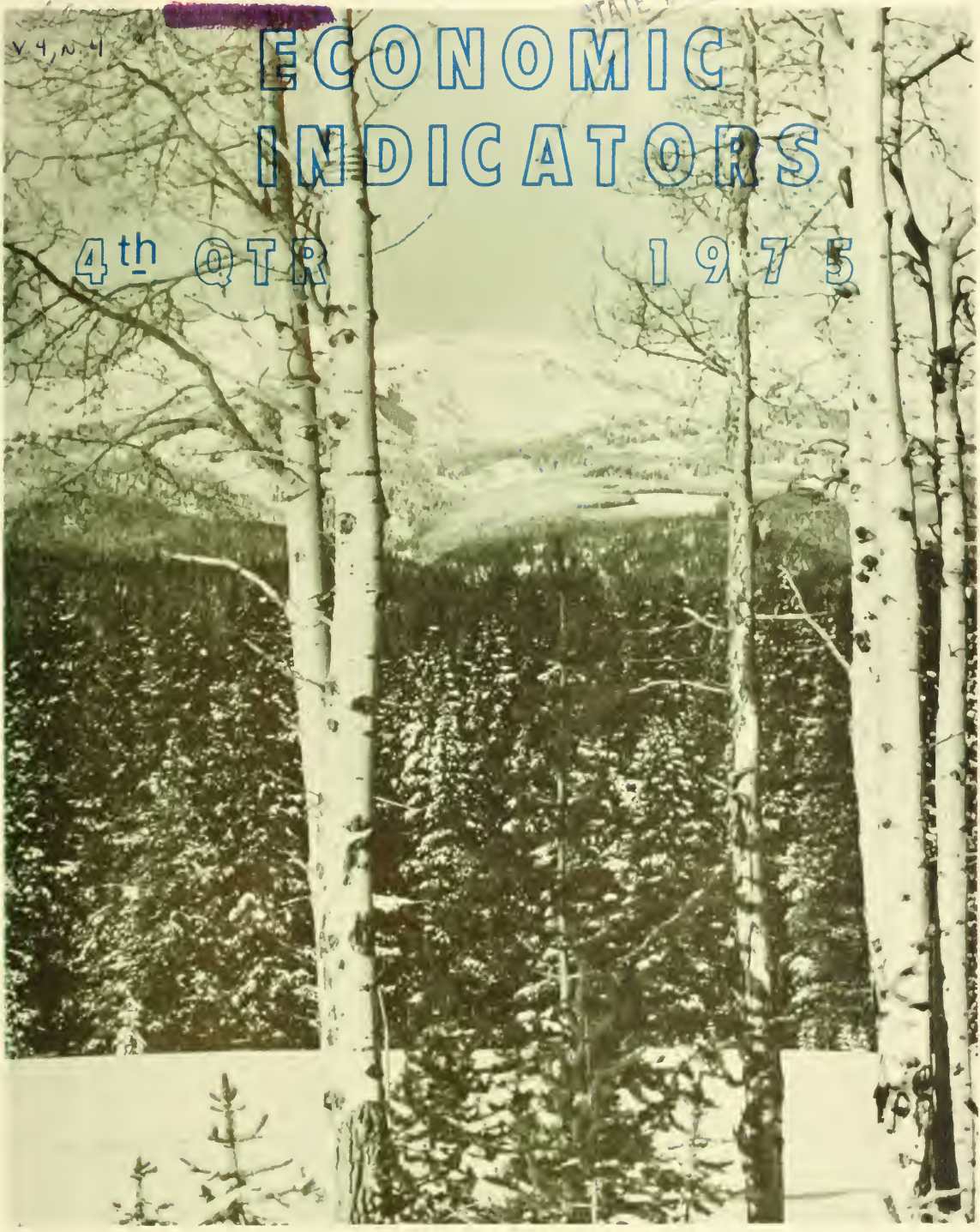
MONTANA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

4th QTR 1975



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MONTANA

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

AN ANALYSIS OF PAST AND PRESENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

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EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor Turnover data produced in cooperation with U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Manpower Administration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Title Page	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Table of Contents	1
A Note About Benchmarking and Seasonal Adjustment Changes	2
Analysis - Fourth Quarter 1975	3
FEATURE ARTICLE: A Look at Veterans' Benefits	5
Quit Rate - Manufacturing	8
New Hires Rate - Manufacturing	8
Layoff Rate - Manufacturing	8
Accession Rate - Manufacturing	8
Average Weekly Hours - Manufacturing	8
Average Weekly Initial Claims	10
Total Nonagricultural Placements	10
Total Number of Building Permits	10
Number of Residential Building Permits	10
New Corporations	10
Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations	10
Unemployment Rate	12
Unemployment Total	12
Average Weekly Insured Unemployed	12
Manufacturing Employment	12
New Car Registrations	12
Residential Electric Power Sales Index	14
Commercial-Industrial Power Sales Index	14
Manufacturing Power Sales	14
Bank Loans Index	14
Bank Deposits Index	14
Loan/Deposit Ratio	14
Bank Debits	14
Employment-Lumber and Wood Products	16
Farmers Parity Ratio	16
Montana Nonagricultural Employment Index	16
U. S. Nonagricultural Employment Index	16
Natural Gas Withdrawals	16
Oil and Gas Wells Completed	16
Oil Refined	16
Montana Composite Index	18
Marginal Employment Adjustments Composite Index	18
Taxable Gallons Gasoline	18
Oil Production	18
New Business Telephones	18
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	18
Average Weekly Spendable Earnings	18
Indicators	20
Appendix II Glossary	23
Appendix II Key	29

A NOTE ABOUT BENCHMARKING AND SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT CHANGES

Because of new benchmarks and new seasonal adjustment factors, some of the series in this publication have been changed to take into account the latest information available. 1975 benchmarks, which reflect the most recent and complete estimates of employment, account for revisions to indicators dealing with total and industry detailed employment. These benchmark levels are revised annually to adjust for sampling errors and any changes to industrial classifications. In addition, all of those series requiring seasonal adjustment have also been revised to reflect the most recent seasonal adjustment factors. Changes in these seasonal series can be attributed to the inclusion of 1974 data in the BLS seasonal adjustment method. Whenever latest benchmark levels or latest seasonal adjustment factors become available, any changes in the data will be included in future publications.

ANALYSIS FOURTH QUARTER 1975

On the national level many leading and coincident indications are exhibiting trends that contradict recessionary business conditions. Cyclical indicators such as gross national product, changes in business inventories, corporate profits, and nonagricultural employment have projected upward. Despite these encouraging facts, some experts are still not altogether optimistic about our nation's most recent economic upsurge. Evidence of this negative attitude is observed in the fact that capital expenditure commitments have most recently turned downward, and in the fact that some market analysts are projecting pessimism on Wall Street.

Montana, on the other hand, is once again lagging behind the nation in its economic recovery. The general tendency of the leading indicators is definitely positive, while trends for our state's coinciding and selected indicators are mixed. Thus, present business activity in Montana can best be described as not being typically prosperous but cautiously optimistic.

Statistics on unemployment rates and unemployment totals, which are inversely related to business cycles, continue to climb. Manufacturing employment, especially employment in lumber and wood products manufacturing has started its shift upward. Latest figures demonstrated that the number of average weekly insured unemployed also took a sharp turn for the better. New car registrations declined on a monthly basis but rose sufficiently to exceed last year's figures. Gains were also produced by the banking indicators. Of the remaining Coinciding Indicators residential power sales soared upward, while such sales to manufacturing, commercial and industrial firms continued to decline.

Much of Montana's most recent stimulation for economic optimism is based upon present developments in the Leading Indicators. For the most part, manufacturing turnover rates have all shown definite and consistent improvements in the economy. This same tendency has also been reflected in average weekly hours. In addition, average weekly initial claims have reacted quite favorably in the past few months. Increases in both total and residential building permits have been revealed by the latest statistics. Although declining in recent months, new corporations and new business telephones have at least shown improvements on a long-term basis.

Selected Indicators signifying increased business activity include the Montana nonagricultural employment index and real average weekly spendable earnings. Oil and gas statistics, on the other hand, displayed mixed reactions which were weighted most heavily on the negative side.

Latest figures have indicated a significant improvement for both the Montana composite index and the marginal employment adjustments index. This information, in addition to favorable changes in the Leading Indicators, may possibly precede a positive direction in our state's business activity.

In summary, our state still has a need for new employment opportunities, especially opportunities in primary industries. This stimulation, coupled with additional improvements in the Composite and Leading Indicators, could set the stage for strengthening Montana's economy.

A LOOK AT VETERANS' BENEFITS

By Robert Aubrey
Montana Employment Security Division
Research and Analysis Section

In 1971, one of every seven Americans was a veteran in this country. However, veterans accounted for only about one-third of the potential recipients of veteran benefits in 1974. In fact, veterans and their families comprise 44.5% of the total U. S. population. It is no wonder that they are such an important and powerful minority. In 1972, the U. S. government spent $11.5 billion on behalf of veterans. These expenditures covered a wide spectrum of benefits ranging from helping young veterans find jobs or learn a skill, to the financial support of the needy, or the payment of burial expenses for deceased veterans.

Since the very birth of this nation, it has been considered an obligation to help care for those who served in behalf of our defense. The first form of veteran compensation originated in 1776, when a commission appointed by the Continental Congress recommended disability payments for incapacitated soldiers, and land grants to the war soldiers as an incentive to extend their duty. Then in 1818, the first general veteran pension was initiated with eligibility based on "need". Payments ranged from $8.00 for enlisted personnel to $20.00 for officers. In 1833, the U. S. Naval Home became the first facility for the aged and disabled veterans.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, there were approximately 80,000 veterans in the United States. The Civil War added 1.9 million veterans back into civilian life. Because of their number, the veteran population really gained political power, and the number and amount of veteran benefits continued to grow during the post-Civil War period. The first veterans' organization, The Grand Army of the Republic, helped unite the Civil War veterans toward their common goals.

World War I added 4.7 million ex-military citizens. This period brought in new programs such as War Risk Insurance, an insurance against death and permanent disability.

After World War II, 16 million persons left the military and reentered civilian life. The returning veterans caused a tremendous increase in the labor supply of an already post-war slumping economy. With memories of the "Great Depression" still fresh, Congress had a changed attitude about veterans, and programs to help get them readjusted to a civilian life.

There had been 406,000 killed and another 671,000 wounded during that war. The nation had a strong feeling that the survivors deserved some type of compensation. As a result, the Congress passed a "G. I. Bill of Rights". Although many new benefits have been passed since, this bill set up the foundation of our modern veteran benefits system. The provisions of the

bill were classified into three major classifications: education and training, employment assistance, and housing. The veteran students were given subsistence allowances and direct tuition grants to the school of their choice. The unemployed were given unemployment compensation, counseling, guidance, placement services, and legislation granting special preference to veterans in public service jobs. Under the G. I. Guaranty Loan Program, veterans were able to obtain federally guaranteed loans to purchase housing.

After years of medical care and other veteran benefits being handled by various agencies, the Veterans Administration was established in 1930. Today, this is one of the largest federal agencies in the country. In 1972, the Veterans Administration employed 172,000 full-time employees. Of this number 87% were employed in hospitals. Scattered across the country are 167 hospitals, 18 domiciliaries and 57 regional offices in the decentralized agency.

In Montana, there are two Veterans Administration hospitals. One is located in Helena which is also the location of the regional office, and the other is located in Miles City. During fiscal year 1974, Miles City had an average daily patient census of 76 persons, of which 27 were in for surgery. Fort Harrison in Helena had 144 and 50 persons, respectively. The total number of persons treated in each hospital was 1,761 in Miles City and 2,649 in Helena.

There are two types of income support programs for veterans. Compensation provides income to veterans who suffered service-connected disabilities, and to survivors of veterans who die during military service. Pensions are given to those in "need", mainly the aged. In fact, the average pensioner in 1971 was 68 years old, and two-thirds of all people receiving pensions were over 65 years of age. During fiscal year 1974, 17,258 persons received payments from both programs in Montana at an estimated cost of $22.9 million.

The wave of employment and training programs for the veteran has made the adjustment process for the veteran much easier. A single veteran may receive $270 a month to go to the college of his choice, or he may enter a variety of vocational-technical schools. Through the U. S. Employment Service, various job training programs are available as well as military unemployment compensation to provide temporary income during the job-seeking process. The help of these programs can be partially measured by the fact that in fiscal year 1974, 87.8% of all male veterans participated in the labor force, compared to 72.9% for male non-veterans.

In October 1973, 800,000 veterans between the ages of 20 and 34 were enrolled in college. However, only 53% of these students were enrolled full time, compared with 72% for non-veterans. In Montana, there were 2,750 veteran students enrolled in Montana's colleges and universities, and 520 enrolled in Montana's vocational-technical schools in December 1975.

Besides the above-mentioned programs for veterans, there are many others including insurance benefits, burial payments, VA guaranteed home mortgage loans, etc. This country has tried to continually update veteran benefits and help take care of those who served in her defense.

TABLES

ATTAINED LEVEL OF EDUCATION	MEDIAN INCOME 1973	
	Veterans	Non-Veterans
Less than High School	6,860	4,560
Some High School	9,140	7,040
High School Graduate	10,750	8,650
Some College	11,888	6,210
College Graduate	15,820	11,710

Source: "Veterans Administration Annual Report of 1974", Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Page 5.

VIET NAM ERA

Veteran Population	6,787,000
Trainees - Number	3,400,017
As a Percent of Total	*50%*
School Trainees	*45%*
On the Job	*5%*

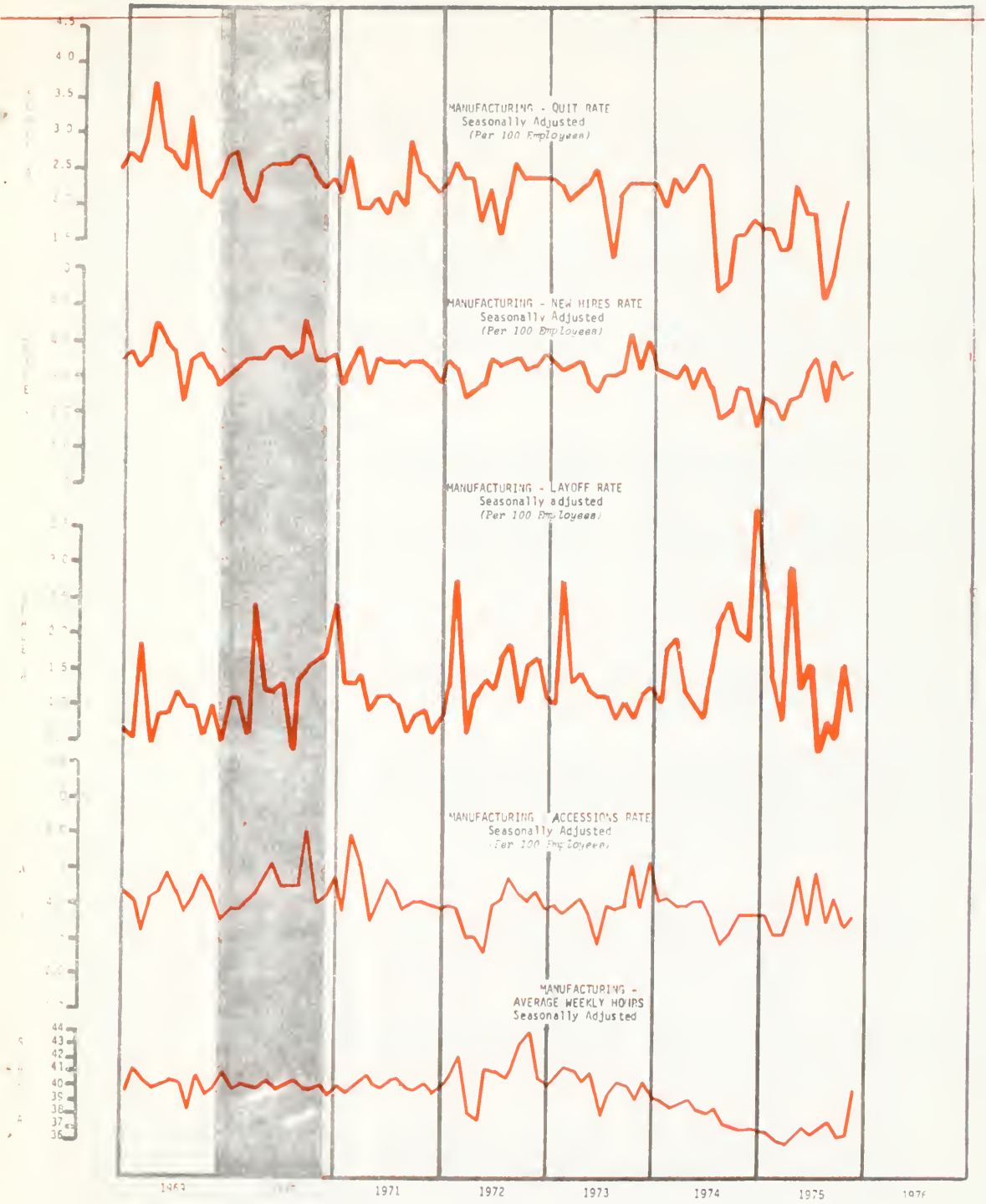
Source: "Veterans Administration - Veterans Benefits under Current Education Programs", November 1973.

G. I. BILL RATES - EDUCATION, TRAINING

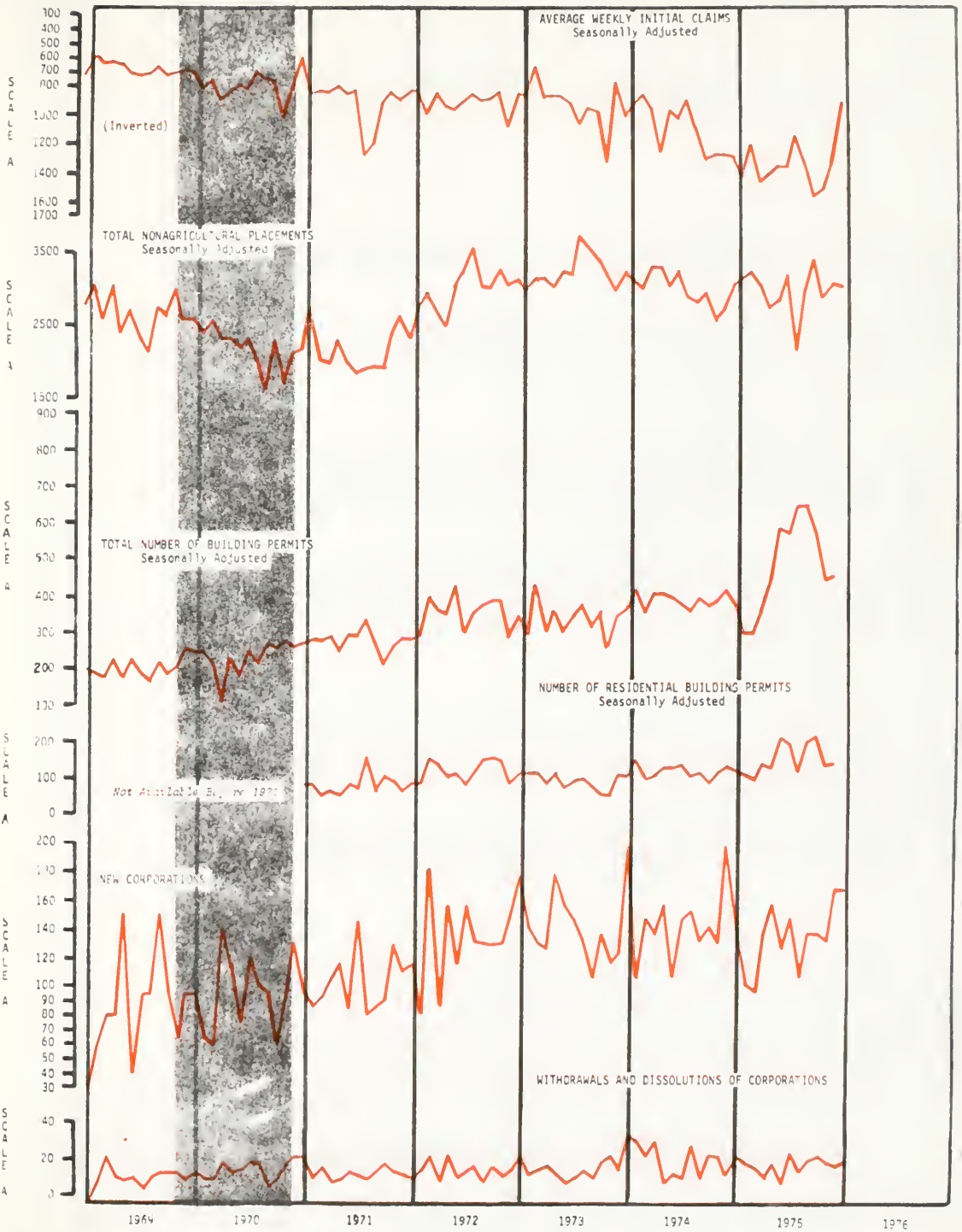
	No Dependents	One Dependent	Two Dependents	Each Additional Dependent
Full Time	$270	$321	$366	$22
Half Time	$135	$160	$182	$11

MANUFACTURING

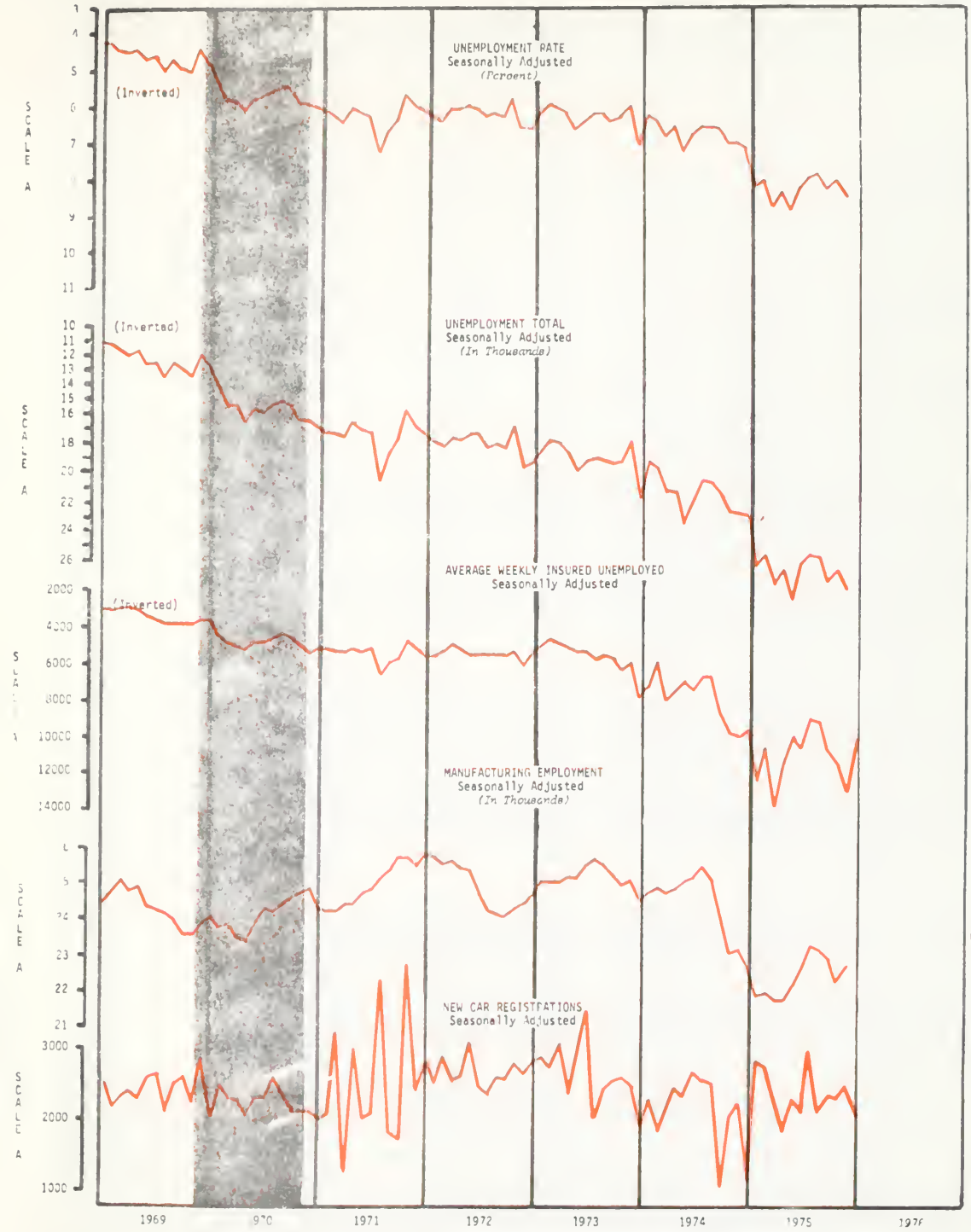
		Quit Rate (Per 100 Employees)		New Hires Rate		Layoff Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Accessions Rate		Average Weekly Hours	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1974	Jan.	1.5	2.3	3.1	4.1	1.1	1.2	3.9	5.1	39.5	39.1
	Feb.	1.3	2.3	1.7	3.3	0.7	1.0	2.4	4.0	38.5	38.8
	Mar.	1.4	2.0	2.5	3.2	2.1	1.7	3.6	4.1	38.0	38.4
	Apr.	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.1	1.7	1.9	3.8	3.9	37.8	38.5
	May	2.4	2.2	4.4	3.4	0.5	1.2	5.2	3.9	38.6	38.9
	Jun.	2.4	2.4	5.2	2.8	0.3	1.0	6.7	4.0	38.1	38.3
	Jul.	2.5	2.6	4.4	3.3	0.4	0.8	5.4	4.0	37.5	38.0
	Aug.	3.4	2.4	3.4	2.8	1.9	1.5	3.8	3.5	38.8	38.3
	Sep.	3.2	0.8	2.8	1.9	2.6	2.1	3.4	2.8	38.1	37.4
	Oct.	1.5	0.9	2.6	2.1	2.9	2.4	3.5	3.1	38.1	37.1
	Nov.	0.9	1.6	1.3	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.9	3.6	36.6	36.8
	Dec.	0.8	1.6	1.2	2.7	2.2	1.9	2.0	3.6	37.0	36.9
1975	Jan.	1.0	1.8	0.7	1.7	3.6	3.7	2.4	3.6	37.2	36.8
	Feb.	0.7	1.7	0.9	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.0	3.6	36.3	36.6
	Mar.	1.1	1.7	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.4	2.6	3.1	35.8	36.2
	Apr.	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	0.6	0.8	3.0	3.1	35.1	35.8
	May	1.6	1.4	3.4	2.4	2.2	2.9	4.9	3.7	35.9	36.2
	Jun.	2.3	2.3	4.8	2.5	0.5	1.2	7.4	4.7	36.7	36.9
	Jul.	1.9	1.9	4.2	3.1	1.1	1.5	4.9	3.4	36.0	36.5
	Aug.	2.9	1.9	4.2	3.6	0.7	0.3	5.1	4.8	37.2	36.8
	Sep.	3.1	0.7	3.3	2.4	1.2	0.7	4.0	3.4	38.1	37.3
	Oct.	1.6	1.0	4.0	3.5	1.0	0.5	4.5	4.1	37.3	36.3
	Nov.	1.0	1.7	1.5	3.0	1.7	1.5	1.7	3.3	36.1	36.4
	Dec.	1.3	2.1	1.6	3.1	1.2	0.9	2.0	3.6	39.8	39.7
1976	Jan.										
	Feb.										
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										


MANUFACTURING - QUIT RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING - NEW HIRES RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING - LAYOFF RATE
Seasonally adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING - ACCESSIONS RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING -
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS
Seasonally Adjusted
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

		Average Weekly Intial Claims		Total Nonagricultural Placements		Total Number of Building Permits		Number of Residential Building Permits		New Corporations	Withdrawa and Dissoluti of Corporati
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ		
1974	Jan.	1,595	937	2,336	3,335	165	377	51	120	200	36
	Feb.	948	863	2,041	3,210	262	427	101	165	110	31
	Mar.	865	794	2,281	3,129	357	366	128	111	152	25
	Apr.	788	885	3,074	3,410	565	419	181	124	140	33
	May	898	1,184	3,991	3,397	542	423	178	140	160	10
	Jun.	677	909	3,713	3,167	508	410	153	139	108	14
	Jul.	737	962	3,979	3,312	467	392	165	151	148	11
	Aug.	628	834	4,954	3,014	447	373	121	119	153	30
	Sep	743	1,025	3,744	2,942	465	408	140	128	134	12
	Oct.	1,150	1,242	3,264	3,037	441	391	113	100	145	23
	Nov.	1,372	1,218	2,401	2,715	341	396	125	132	136	25
	Dec.	1,676	1,220	1,809	2,925	253	432	112	139	199	18
1975	Jan.	1,891	1,233	2,169	3,177	176	391	67	135	138	25
	Feb.	1,449	1,371	2,088	3,260	148	315	59	123	104	20
	Mar.	1,221	1,150	2,476	3,324	302	310	123	106	102	18
	Apr.	1,295	1,399	2,839	3,178	523	376	203	146	138	11
	May	1,057	1,343	3,428	2,838	582	460	176	138	161	19
	Jun.	1,059	1,290	3,476	2,930	699	600	230	216	132	10
	Jul.	1,065	1,289	3,954	3,281	668	594	210	196	148	26
	Aug.	891	1,093	4,236	2,280	730	656	135	133	109	15
	Sep.	989	1,272	3,893	3,088	720	665	228	215	139	22
	Oct.	1,412	1,503	3,735	3,512	644	594	236	225	142	23
	Nov.	1,615	1,459	2,689	3,001	404	459	138	146	137	20
	Dec.	1,744	1,288	2,044	3,172	283	463	127	152	171	18
1976	Jan.	1,501	843	2,154	3,132						
	Feb.									170	21
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

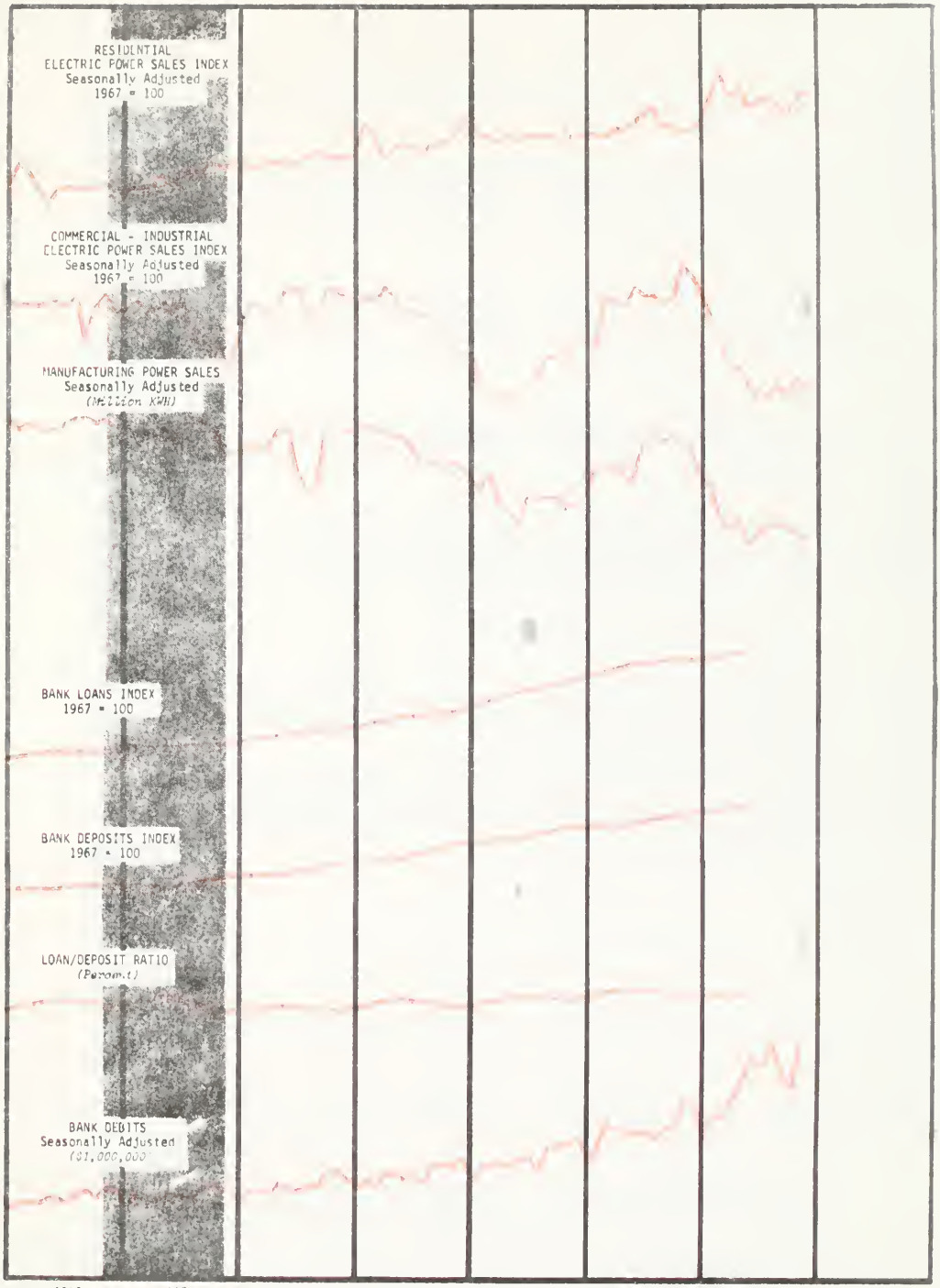

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS
Seasonally Adjusted
(Inverted)
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS
Seasonally Adjusted
TOTAL NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS
Seasonally Adjusted
NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS
Seasonally Adjusted
NEW CORPORATIONS
WITHDRAWALS AND DISSOLUTIONS OF CORPORATIONS
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976

		Unemployment Rate (Percent)		Unemployment Total (in Thousands)		Average Weekly Insured Unemployed		Manufacturing Employment (in Thousands)		New Car Registrations	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1974	Jan.	9.2	7.0	27.6	21.9	12,056	8,212	23.5	24.3	1,204	1,815
	Feb.	8.1	6.2	24.3	19.5	11,576	7,639	23.7	24.5	1,614	2,169
	Mar.	7.6	6.3	23.4	19.9	8,967	6,207	23.4	24.6	1,758	1,713
	Apr.	6.8	6.7	21.4	21.4	9,118	8,336	23.4	24.[illegible]	1,930	1,727
	May	5.6	6.6	18.3	21.6	6,545	7,787	24.1	24.6	2,651	2,324
	Jun.	6.9	7.2	24.0	23.7	5,342	7,419	25.6	24.8	2,158	2,244
	Jul.	6.0	6.7	21.0	22.0	6,031	7,876	26.0	24.9	2,690	2,543
	Aug.	5.3	6.5	17.9	20.8	4,817	6,984	26.1	25.2	2,528	2,422
	Sep.	5.2	6.5	17.3	20.9	4,587	6,950	25.5	24.8	2,666	2,389
	Oct.	5.6	6.6	18.1	21.7	6,893	9,040	24.5	23.8	1,528	940
	Nov.	7.0	7.0	22.4	23.0	9,584	10,403	23.2	22.8	2,060	1,916
	Dec.	7.7	7.0	24.1	23.1	12,084	10,664	22.7	22.9	1,517	2,090
1975	Jan.	9.4	7.1	28.9	23.2	14,013	10,155	21.6	22.4	485	1,090
	Feb.	10.2	8.2	31.4	26.7	16,960	13,059	20.8	21.6	2,145	2,697
	Mar.	9.2	8.0	29.3	25.9	14,015	11,280	20.5	21.7	2,620	2,581
	Apr.	8.7	8.7	28.0	28.0	15,065	14,312	20.4	21.5	2,340	2,139
	May	7.2	8.3	23.6	26.9	10,669	11,934	21.0	21.5	1,999	1,667
	Jun.	8.4	8.8	29.4	29.1	8,430	10,516	22.7	21.9	2,080	2,167
	Jul.	7.4	8.2	25.6	26.6	9,290	11,127	23.5	22.4	2,197	2,046
	Aug.	6.6	7.9	23.0	25.9	7,530	9,695	23.9	23.0	2,913	2,827
	Sep.	6.6	7.8	22.5	26.1	7,526	9,886	23.6	22.9	2,263	1,986
	Oct.	7.3	8.2	24.2	27.7	9,202	11,342	23.3	22.6	2,809	2,219
	Nov.	8.0	8.0	26.5	27.1	11,430	12,243	22.4	22.0	2,334	2,180
	Dec.	9.1	8.4	29.7	28.6	15,027	13,592	22.2	22.5	1,773	2,341
1976	Jan.										
	Feb.					14,264	10,406			1,339	1,944
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Percent)
(Inverted)
UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
(Inverted)
AVERAGE WEEKLY INSURED UNEMPLOYED
Seasonally Adjusted
(Inverted)
MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS
Seasonally Adjusted
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976

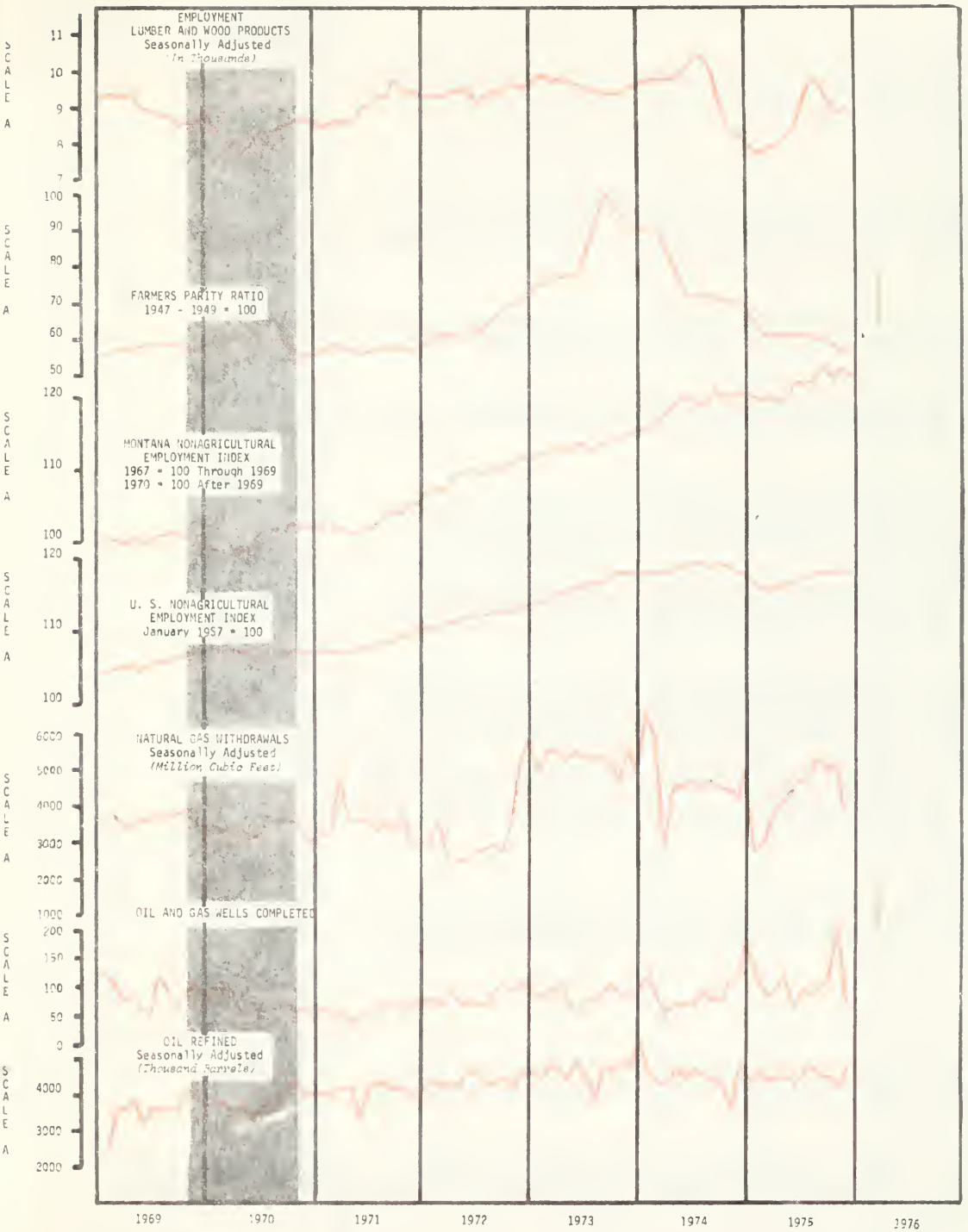
		Residential Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Commercial-Industrial Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Manufacturing Power Sales *(Million KWH)*		Bank Loans Index	Bank Deposits Index	Loan/ Deposit Ratio* *(Percent)*	Bank De *($1,000*
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	1967 = 100		UNADJ	UNADJ
1974	Jan.	179.1	141.2	115.9	117.9	404.8	385.2				1,607.0
	Feb.	174.1	142.4	111.4	114.2	407.6	410.3				1,293.8
	Mar.	149.6	139.2	127.6	126.9	431.4	409.8				1,484.5
	Apr.	144.6	143.3	126.7	126.3	428.8	416.8				1,782.2
	May	133.6	143.1	126.2	124.7	409.4	407.4				1,756.0
	Jun.	131.3	148.1	128.2	130.2	400.7	398.5	237.0	201.2	67.6	1,635.6
	Jul.	132.0	152.5	129.0	127.8	439.3	448.4				1,708.7
	Aug.	136.0	156.0	128.5	128.1	433.9	453.4				1,689.6
	Sep.	130.1	146.2	125.1	125.5	424.7	450.2				1,590.2
	Oct.	132.1	147.0	127.9	127.1	445.8	454.8				1,723.1
	Nov.	143.4	145.1	138.6	135.5	446.5	446.8				1,739.6
	Dec.	165.0	144.5	132.3	133.2	453.0	444.4	240.8	214.3	64.1	2,095.8
1975	Jan.	188.5	150.4	127.4	129.4	424.2	404.2				2,069.7
	Feb.	191.3	159.4	119.9	122.8	388.4	390.6				1,648.6
	Mar.	181.7	171.3	117.0	116.3	373.9	351.7				1,863.7
	Apr.	163.8	162.7	110.3	109.9	351.3	339.3				1,932.1
	May	155.5	165.3	111.0	109.6	349.1	347.7				1,986.2
	Jun.	139.0	155.8	102.5	104.7	321.3	319.0	252.0	225.2	64.5	2,388.2
	Jul.	137.1	157.5	102.7	101.5	317.8	326.6				2,631.5
	Aug.	141.1	161.2	103.6	103.0	319.7	340.0				2,567.9
	Sep.	141.1	157.3	105.7	105.9	318.7	344.5				2,740.6
	Oct.	135.9	151.0	105.0	104.0	329.2	338.2				2,544.6
	Nov.	159.1	160.7	111.8	108.6	331.2	331.3				2,362.4
	Dec.	187.7	166.9	103.9	104.9	332.5	323.5				2,877.1
1976	Jan.										
	Feb.										
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

* New Series

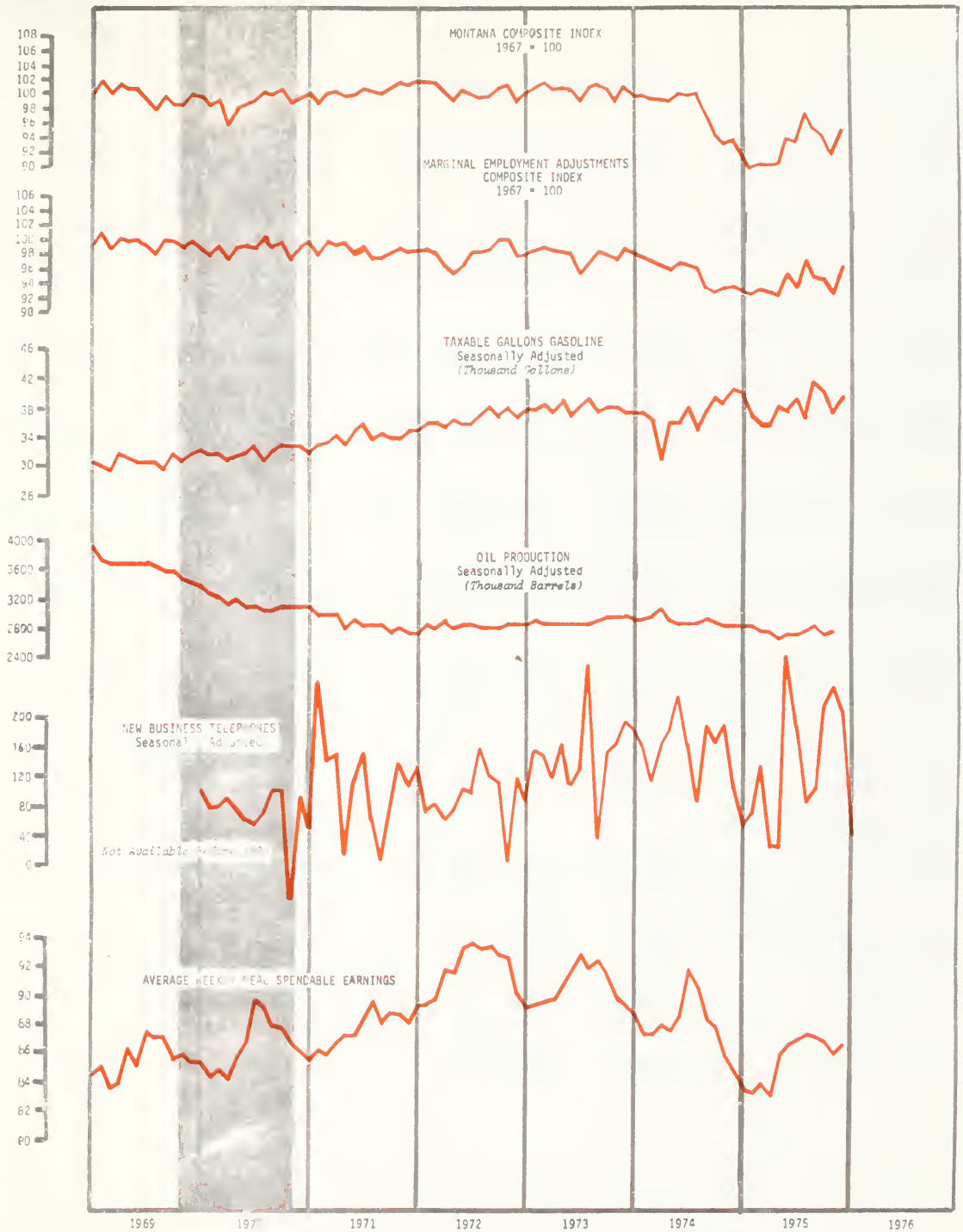

RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
MANUFACTURING POWER SALES
Seasonally Adjusted
(Million KWH)
BANK LOANS INDEX
1967 = 100
BANK DEPOSITS INDEX
1967 = 100
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO
(Percent)
BANK DEBITS
Seasonally Adjusted
($1,000,000)
SCALE A
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
135
125
115
105
500
450
400
350
300
250
300
250
200
150
100
250
200
150
100
50
80
60
40
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976

		Employment-Lumber and Wood Products *(in Thousands)*		Farmers' Parity Ratio*	Nonagricultural Employment Index**		Natural Gas Withdrawals *(Million Cu.Ft.)*		Oil and Gas Wells Completed	Oil Refined *(Thousand Barrels)*	
		UNADJ	ADJ		MONTANA	U. S.	UNADJ	ADJ		UNADJ	ADJ
1974	Jan.	9.1	9.4		113.7	116.3	7,899	5,966	91	4,205	4,177
	Feb.	9.2	9.5		115.0	116.3	6,503	5,378	53	3,644	3,925
	Mar.	9.1	9.5	84	115.6	116.4	3,029	2,361	28	3,922	3,928
	Apr.	8.7	9.5		117.0	116.6	3,571	3,971	44	3,751	4,258
	May	9.2	9.5		118.0	117.1	3,340	4,082	37	3,785	4,048
	June	10.2	9.7	67	118.3	117.3	3,192	4,168	42	4,252	4,164
	July	10.5	10.0		117.7	117.6	3,052	4,100	61	4,398	4,139
	Aug	10.6	10.1		117.9	117.4	3,101	4,170	47	4,416	4,004
	Sep.	10.2	9.7	67	119.4	117.6	3,079	4,050	50	4,020	3,908
	Oct.	8.9	8.7		118.4	117.5	3,345	4,031	81	3,112	3,162
	Nov.	8.2	8.1		118.6	116.7	4,091	3,723	91	4,322	4,372
	Dec.	7.8	8.0	65	118.8	116.1	6,190	4,365	153	4,225	3,948
1975	Jan.	7.3	7.6		117.0	115.1	4,096	2,154	88	4,269	4,236
	Feb.	7.1	7.4		115.7	114.4	3,605	2,453	55	3,610	3,896
	Mar.	7.1	7.5	55	116.8	114.3	3,914	3,245	61	3,969	3,976
	Apr.	6.8	7.6		116.3	114.6	3,199	3,620	92	3,506	4,024
	May	7.5	7.8		116.7	114.7	3,118	3,860	32	3,547	3,805
	June	8.5	8.0	56	118.8	115.0	3,202	4,177	66	4,229	4,134
	July	9.2	8.7		118.3	115.7	3,157	4,217	52	4,599	4,348
	Aug.	9.9	9.4		119.2	116.1	3,737	4,811	73	4,436	4,022
	Sep.	9.8	9.3	57	121.1	116.1	3,510	4,486	79	4,135	4,035
	Oct.	9.0	8.8		120.8	116.3	3,899	4,616	166	3,670	3,726
	Nov.	8.6	8.5		122.1	116.2	4,023	3,635	63	4,181	4,220
	Dec.	8.4	8.6	52	121.5	116.6					
1976	Jan.										
	Feb.										
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	June										
	July										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

* *1947 - 1949 = 100* ** *MONTANA: 1967 = 100 through 1969; 1970 = 100 after 1969. U.S.: January 1967 = 100*


EMPLOYMENT
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
FARMERS PARITY RATIO
1947 - 1949 = 100
MONTANA NONAGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYMENT INDEX
1967 = 100 Through 1969
1970 = 100 After 1969
U. S. NONAGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYMENT INDEX
January 1957 = 100
NATURAL GAS WITHDRAWALS
Seasonally Adjusted
(Million Cubic Feet)
OIL AND GAS WELLS COMPLETED
OIL REFINED
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand Barrels)
SCALE A
11
10
9
8
7
100
90
80
70
60
50
120
110
100
120
110
100
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
200
150
100
50
0
4000
3000
2000
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976

		MONTANA Composite Index 1967 = 100	Marginal Employment Adjustments Index 1967 = 100	Taxable Gallons Gasoline (Thousands Gallsons)		Oil Production (Thousand Barrels)		New Business Telephones		Gross Average Weekly Earnings	Average Weekly Spendable Farnings
				UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ		
1974	Jan.	100.0	97.9	29,558	37,632	2,907	2,920	221	180	143.47	88.29
	Feb.	100.2	97.4	28,329	37,320	2,667	2,903	154	156	144.08	87.54
	Mar.	99.7	97.0	31,589	37,433	3,028	2,932	122	111	145.20	87.04
	Apr.	99.4	96.3	34,118	37,445	2,990	3,046	224	162	147.29	87.65
	May	99.3	96.0	36,058	35,910	3,009	2,900	344	180	148.47	87.31
	Jun.	100.3	96.9	41,047	36,368	2,839	2,852	342	224	152.21	88.35
	Jul.	100.2	96.8	49,953	37,972	2,855	2,831	204	158	159.90	91.50
	Aug.	100.2	96.3	49,938	34,839	2,882	2,852	41	82	159.84	90.31
	Sep.	97.8	93.6	38,482	37,575	2,850	2,880	95	195	157.38	88.10
	Oct.	94.7	92.9	39,202	39,430	2,911	2,838	83	160	157.75	87.46
	Nov.	93.4	93.6	35,052	38,316	2,738	2,782	62	194	154.94	85.40
	Dec.	94.0	93.8	35,294	40,378	2,844	2,785	10	101	154.28	84.52
1975	Jan.	92.1	92.8	32,027	40,152	2,768	2,780	89	47	152.28	83.19
	Feb.	89.9	92.7	28,261	37,231	2,548	2,783	64	65	152.80	82.90
	Mar.	90.5	93.3	30,835	35,656	2,854	2,756	136	127	155.09	83.58
	Apr.	90.4	92.8	32,217	35,549	2,701	2,753	82	22	154.22	82.77
	May	90.8	92.6	38,603	38,417	2,767	2,659	188	23	157.24	85.48
	Jun.	94.2	95.3	42,723	38,117	2,683	2,696	398	278	160.81	86.37
	Jul.	93.7	93.5	51,173	39,242	2,707	2,684	229	184	163.52	86.63
	Aug.	97.6	97.1	51,450	36,290	2,793	2,765	38	78	165.07	87.04
	Sep.	95.7	94.8	43,364	41,453	2,777	2,809	1	100	165.53	86.81
	Oct.	94.7	94.5	39,571	39,806	2,778	2,705	131	209	165.98	86.48
	Nov.	91.8	92.8	33,913	37,141	2,694	2,738	106	238	165.34	85.67
	Dec.	95.2	96.3	34,242	39,349			112	205	167.81	86.36
1976	Jan.							77	35		
	Feb.										
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										


MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX
1967 = 100
MARGINAL EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENTS
COMPOSITE INDEX
1967 = 100
TAXABLE GALLONS GASOLINE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand Gallons)
OIL PRODUCTION
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand Barrels)
NEW BUSINESS TELEPHONES
Seasonally Adjusted
Not Available
AVERAGE WEEKLY REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS
SCALE A
1969
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA: Latest Month 1975	MONTHLY DATA: Last Month	MONTHLY DATA: Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE: Last Month	PERCENT CHANGE: Last Year
LEADING INDICATORS						
Initial Claims						
Seasonally Adusted	Avg. No./WK.	1976 Jan: 843	1,288	1,233	-34.5	-31.6
Unadjusted	Avg. No./WK.	1976 Jan: 1,501	1,744	1,891	-13.9	-20.6
Nonagricultural Placements						
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	1976 Jan: 3,132	3,172	3,177	- 1.3	- 1.4
Unadusted	Number	1976 Jan: 2,154	2,044	2,169	5.4	-.7
Total Building Permits						
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Dec: 463	459	432	0.9	7.2
Unadjusted	Number	Dec: 283	404	253	-5.2	11.9
Residential Building Permits						
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Dec: 152	146	225	4.1	-32.4
Unadjusted	Number	Dec: 127	138	236	-8.0	-46.2
Quit Rate						
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 2.1	1.7	1.6	23.5	31.2
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 1.3	1.0	0.8	30.0	62.5
New Hires Rate						
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 3.1	3.0	2.7	3.3	14.8
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 1.6	1.5	1.2	6.7	33.3
Layoff Rate						
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 0.9	1.5	1.9	-40.0	-52.6
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 1.2	1.7	2.2	-29.4	-45.5
Accession Rate						
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 3.6	3.3	3.6	9.1	0
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Dec: 2.0	1.7	2.0	17.6	0
Average Weekly Hours-Mfg.						
Seasonally Adjusted	Hours	Dec: 39.8	36.1	37.0	10.2	7.6
Unadjusted	Hours	Dec: 39.7	36.4	36.9	9.1	7.6
New Business Telephones						
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	1976 Jan: 35	205	47	-82.9	-25.5
Unadjusted	Number	1976 Jan: 77	112	89	-31.2	-13.5
New Corporations	Number	1976 Jan: 170	171	138	-.6	23.2
Withdrawals & Dissolutions of Corporations	Number	1976 Jan: 21	18	25	16.7	-16.0

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1975		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
COINCIDING INDICATORS							
Unemployment Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Percent	Dec:	8.4	8.0	7.0	5.0	20.0
Unadjusted	Percent	Dec:	9.1	8.0	7.7	13.8	14.8
Unemployment Total							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Dec:	28.6	27.1	23.1	5.5	23.8
Unadjusted	Thousands	Dec:	29.7	26.5	24.1	12.1	23.2
Insured Unemployed							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg.Wkly.No. 1976	Jan:	10,406	13,592	10,155	-23.4	2.5
Unadjusted	Avg.Wkly.No. 1976	Jan:	14,264	15,027	14,013	-5.1	1.8
Manufacturing Employment							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Dec:	22.5	22.0	22.9	2.3	-1.7
Unadjusted	Thousands	Dec:	22.2	22.4	22.7	-.9	-2.2
New Car Registrations							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number 1976	Jan:	1,944	2,341	1,090	-17.0	78.3
Unadjusted	Number 1976	Jan:	1,339	1,773	485	-24.5	176.1
Residential Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Dec:	166.9	160.7	144.5	3.9	15.5
Unadjusted	Index	Dec:	187.7	159.1	165.0	18.0	13.8
Manufacturing Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Million KWH	Dec:	323.5	331.3	444.4	-2.4	-27.2
Unadjusted	Million KWH	Dec:	332.5	331.2	453.0	.4	-26.6
Commercial - Industrial Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Dec:	104.9	108.6	133.2	-3.4	-21.2
Unadjusted	Index	Dec:	103.9	111.8	132.3	-7.1	-21.5
Bank Loans	Index	Jun:	252.0	-----	237.0	-----	6.3
Bank Debits							
Seasonally Adjusted	$1,000,000	Dec:	2800.4	2284.9	2017.8	22.6	38.8
Unadjusted	$1,000,000	Dec:	2877.1	2362.4	2095.8	21.8	37.3
Bank Deposits	Index	Jun:	225.2	------	201.2	-----	11.9

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1975		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
SELECTED INDICATORS							
Employment - Lumber and Wood Products							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Dec:	8.6	8.5	8.0	1.2	7.5
Unadjusted	Thousands	Dec:	8.4	8.6	7.8	-2.3	7.7
Farmers Parity Ratio	Ratio	Dec:	52	-	65	-	-20.0
Montana Nonag. Employment	Index	Dec.	121.5	122.1	118.8	-0.5	2.3
U. S. Nonag. Employment	Index	Dec.	116.6	116.2	116.1	0.3	0.4
Natural Gas Withdrawals							
Seasonally Adjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Nov.	3,635	4,616	3,723	-21.3	-2.4
Unadjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Nov.	4,023	3,899	4,091	3.2	-1.7
Oil & Gas Wells Completed	Number	Nov.	63	166	91	-62.0	-30.8
Oil Refined							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Bbls	Nov.	4,220	3,726	4,372	13.3	-3.5
Unadjusted	Thous.Bbls	Nov.	4,181	3,670	4,322	13.9	-3.3
Oil Production							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Bbls	Nov.	2,738	2,705	2,782	1.2	-1.6
Unadjusted	Thous.Bbls	Nov.	2,694	2,778	2,738	-3.0	-1.6
Taxable Gallons Gasoline							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Gals	Dec.	39,349	37,141	40,378	5.9	-2.5
Unadjusted	Thous.Gals	Dec.	34,242	33,913	35,294	1.0	-3.0
Average Weekly Spendable Earnings	Dollars	Dec.	86.36	85.67	84.52	0.8	2.2
Loan/Deposit Ratio	Percent	Jun.	64.5	-	67.6	-	4.6
COMPOSITE INDICATORS							
Montana Composite Index	Index	Dec.	95.2	91.8	94.0	3.7	1.3
Marginal Employment Index	Index	Dec.	96.3	92.8	93.8	3.8	2.7

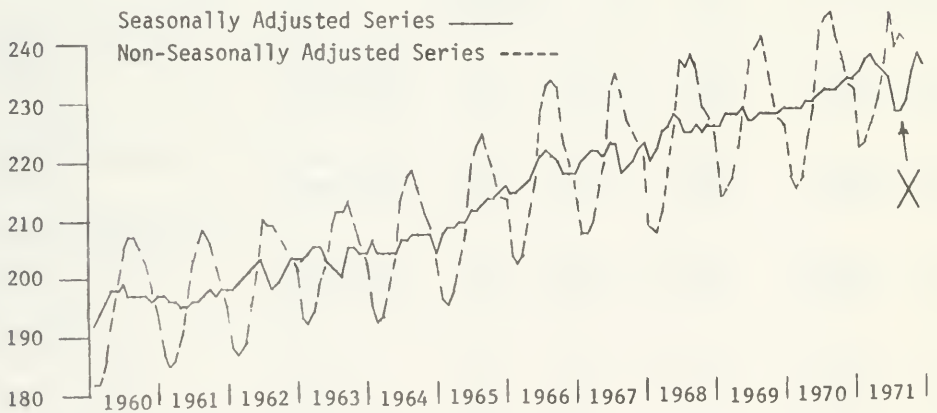
APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY

Seasonal Adjustment - A mathematical procedure in which certain monthly or yearly variations such as climate, holidays, vacation practices, etc., are removed from the statistics. The purpose of this is to simplify analysis over a long period of time and to highlight such non-seasonal occurances as strikes, natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, etc.

Non-Seasonally Adjusted - or "raw" data will not always reflect such occurances precisely because of seasonal influences. For example, the following chart is a graph of total nonagricultural employment for the State of Montana for the years 1960 to 1971.

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT - MONTANA



Note the erratic nature of the non-adjusted data, and that a non-seasonal phenomena occurred in 1971 directly above the "X" mark. During this period a labor-management dispute occurred and the seasonally adjusted figures emphasize this point whereas the dispute is not readily apparent in the non-adjusted data. A word of caution is due at this point about non-adjusted and adjusted data. Adjusted data is not a "substitute" for actual data, and should in no way be used as such.

Economic Indicators - Statistical time series whose cyclical characteristics are known and fairly stable, particularly in the timing of their cyclical peaks and troughs relative to business cycle turns. Economic Indicators are used for the interpretation of current, and the anticipation of prospective, business conditions.

Leading Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction sufficiently in advance of changes in total business activity. The peaks and troughs of this type of indicator generally occur from three to several months previous to the peak or trough in total business activity.

Coincidental Indicators - An economic series that tends to parallel the same general pattern of total business activity.

Selected Indicators - A cyclical time series whose true value as an economic indicator is not yet known.

Lagging Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction (reach its peaks or troughs) some time after the total business pattern has changed.

Other Indicators - A statistical series that combines the cyclical changes of the other types of economic indicators. For example, personal income generally lags at the peaks, and leads at the troughs of total business activity.

Montana Composite Index - A composite of six leading indicators of employment and economic activity: Building Permits, Manufacturing Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Accession Rate and Layoff Rate. A reverse trend has been used for Layoff Rate and Average Weekly Initial Claims. The components are converted to series of standardized changes and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators in making the composite. This composite index is not comparable to the U. S. composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

Marginal Employment Adjustments Index - A composite of four leading indicators of employment changes or adjustments: Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Layoff Rate, and Accession Rate. In producing the composite these components are seasonally adjusted, converted to series of standardized changes, and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators. This composite indicator tends to lead changes in the unemployment rate by approximately five months.

Labor Turnover - The movement of wage and salary workers in and out of employment status.

Accessions - All permanent or temporary additions to the employment rolls, which include new hires and other accessions.

New Hires - Permanent and temporary additions to employment rolls of persons who have never been employed by a specific reporting establishment. This includes former employees who have been rehired although not specifically recalled by the reporting employer.

Other Accessions - Additions to the employment rolls of transfers from other establishments of the same company; employees returning from military service or unpaid leaves of absence; employees specifically recalled by an employer.

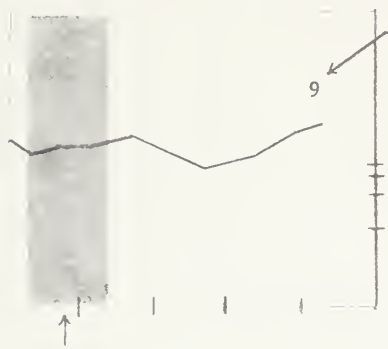
Separations - The termination of employment of persons who quit, are laid off, discharged, retire, die, are inducted into the military for service exceeding 30 consecutive days, suffer physical disabilities, or are transferred to other divisions of the same company.

Quits - The termination of employment initiated by an employee for any reason other than retirement, transfer, or service in the Armed Forces.

Layoffs - Suspension from pay status of an employee, expected to last seven consecutive days. This action must be initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker, for reasons such as lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal employment, inventory-taking, plant breakdown, shortage of materials.

APPENDIX II

KEY



Arabic numbers above graph lines indicate the last month of the year for which data have been plotted.

"A" indicates that scale is arithmetic. "L1", "L2", or "L3" indicate a ratio (semilogarithmic) scale of 1, 2, or 3 decks respectively.

Shaded areas on the graph indicate recession periods in the United States as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Broken lines on graphs indicate that data is not available for that time period.

Montana's indicators have been classified into three types; Leading, Coinciding, and Selected. The classification of Montana's Leading and Coinciding Indicators parallels the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis classification. This has been done to facilitate an easier and more accurate comparison of individual indicators with those of the nation. (This classification, however, does not mean that the Montana Employment Service has endorsed any particular economic theory.)

Historical data available upon request.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Service maintains 23 local employment offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.